CHRIST CHURCH, SOWERBY BRIDGE

WEEKLY NEWS



Are We Too Comfortable to Notice God?

ZEPHANIAH 1.7, 12-18

Life is busy. We rush from one thing to another, caught up in work, family, finances and the endless demands of everyday life. But amid all this activity, have we become so comfortable in our routines that we have stopped noticing God?

In today's reading, the prophet Zephaniah delivers a challenging warning to those who have grown complacent, believing that God will neither act for good nor for harm. They have become so settled in their ways that faith no longer influences how they live.

It's a message that feels surprisingly relevant today. We live in a world where wealth, possessions and personal success are often seen as measures of happiness. Yet Zephaniah reminds us that none of these things can offer the lasting security we seek.

Perhaps the greatest danger isn't turning away from God altogether, but simply allowing Him to slip quietly into the background of our lives.

This reading invites us to pause, reflect and ask ourselves: Are we simply going through the motions, or are we allowing our faith to shape the way we live, love and treat others?

God calls us not to complacency, but to lives of compassion, justice and purpose. His message may be challenging, but it is also an opportunity to rediscover what truly matters.

A thought for the week: If God examined our lives today, would He find a faith that is active and growing, or one that has quietly fallen asleep?

Sunday 15th November
2nd before Advent

FIRST READING
ZEPHANIAH 1.7, 12-18
PSALM
PSALM 90.1-8 [9-11]12
SECOND READING
1 THESSALONIANS 5.1-11
GOSPEL
MATTHEW 25.14-30

SERVERS
DAVE GILL
ANTHEA GEE
FIRST READING
RITA JAGGER
PSALM
SARAH TOWLER
SECOND READING
DAVE GILL
INTERCESSIONS
PAUL HEALEY
SIDES PERSON
ANGELA WILKINS &
JANET TURNER

Collect 2nd before Advent

Heavenly Lord, you long for the world's salvation: stir us from apathy, restrain us from excess and revive in us new hope that all creation will one day be healed in Jesus Christ our Lord.

THIS WEEKS HYMNS

Processional
Soldiers of Christ, arise
Gradual
Make me a channel
Offertory
Be thou my guardian
Communion
In Christ alone
Amazing grace
Recessional
Immortal, invisible

What's the Big Idea? - an introduction to 1 Timothy

This month we look again at the books of the New Testament. Paul wrote to Timothy, 'my true son in the faith' (2), as leader of the church in Ephesus. Timothy had a Greek father and Jewish Christian mother (Acts 16:1). Paul led him to faith during his first visit to Lystra and on his second visit invited Timothy to join him on his travels. He circumcised Timothy so that his Greek ancestry would not be a liability to working with the Jews (Acts 16:3). Although somewhat timid and often unwell, Timothy was a faithful servant of the Lord and Paul.

Paul writes his letter to challenge false teaching and to give instruction on aspects of church life, including worship, the appointment of leaders, and their attitude to money.

Paul gave Timothy authorisation to challenge the false teachers in the church. They taught a strong emphasis on Jewish myths and genealogies and were legalistic about Jewish laws. They also taught that the resurrection had already come and Christians no longer needed to look to Christ's coming, judgment, and resurrection of the dead. They were so immersed in speculative controversies that they neglected the very core of the Christian faith. Not an unfamiliar situation today!

Therefore, like Timothy, we are called to enable the church to bring glory to God: 'But you, man of God, flee from all this, and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance and gentleness. Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called when you made your good confession in the presence of many witnesses.'(6:11,12)

What are you built on?

"Lengthen your cords, strengthen your stakes. For you will spread out to the right and to the left…" Isaiah 54: 2, 3

How strong and flexible are you, as a person? Did you know that the Golden Gate Bridge in San Francisco can move up to 20 feet in either direction as its centre? It's built to sway – to absorb and accommodate vast daily stresses and heat. But it always comes back to its true centre, because it is built on a vast system of steel and concrete that sinks down, down into a solid rock foundation far below in the Pacific.

Each of us needs to be anchored like that – onto a sure foundation. Without it, we will be at the mercy of the storms and strong tides of life. Burdens and flying debris from other people's lives will knock us off balance.

That foundation for us is Jesus. How is your relationship with Him? Is it solid? Is it deep enough to hold you steady on your course as 2026 draws to a close? Jesus urges us to 'abide' in Him. It takes time to get to know Him. The Bible is His message to us; prayer is our message back to Him, and more: for if we draw close to Him, He promises to draw close to us, too.

Christ Church C of E Primary School

Growing in Faith, Learning and Love



WE ARE LOOKING FOR A FOUNDATION GOVERNOR

Help shape the future of our school

Are you passionate about children, our Christian ethos and making a positive difference in our school community?

We are looking to appoint a Foundation Governor to join our Governing Board and help ensure that our Christian vision and values continue to underpin all that we do.

As a Foundation Governor you will:

- **Uphold and promote** the school's Christian vision, values and ethos.
- **Contribute to** the **strategic direction** and long-term development of the school.
- **Support and challenge** school leaders, asking thoughtful questions and helping to ensure high standards for all children.
- Be a committed and enthusiastic member of the Governing Board team.

YOU DON'T NEED TO BE AN EDUCATION EXPERT

We welcome applications from people with a range of skills, knowledge and life experience who are keen to learn and to use their time and insight to support our school.

JOIN US IN HELPING OUR CHILDREN GROW, LEARN AND FLOURISH.

Interested in finding out more?

We would love to hear from you for an informal conversation.

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www.christchurchjuniors.org.uk

In your prayers this week....

Alyson Healey; Archdeacon Bill; Maralyn Pawson; Christine Russell; Catherine Priestley; Vanessa Starsmore; Victor Smyth; Kelly Swift



This week's flowers are in memory of Peter Wilkins

If you would like to provide flowers in church, whether in memory of a loved one, to celebrate a special occasion, or simply as a gift to the church, please speak to Angela W.

Quotes

Philosophy is saying what everybody knows, in language that nobody can understand. - J F Taviner

Piety means letting God bend your will, not just your knees. - Anon

If you want to get rid of somebody, just tell'em something for their own good. - Frank McKinney Hubbard

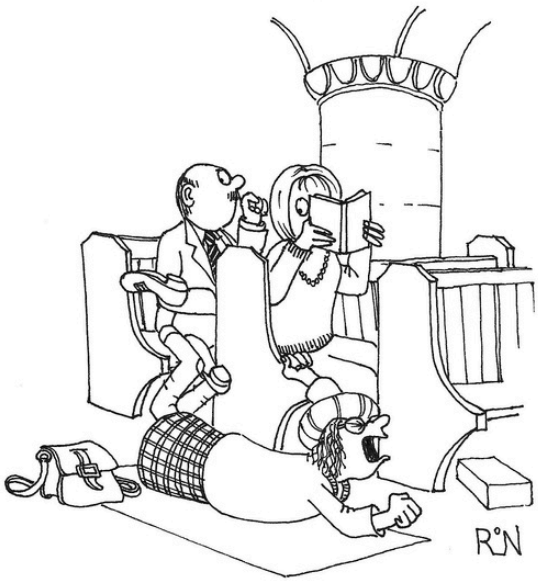
There is nobody so irritating as somebody with less intelligence and more sense than we have. - Don Herold

From the Parish Prayer list:
Christians Together Sowerby Bridge; Any Church you have connections with; Mearclough Road; Milner Royd Lane; Milton Avenue; Milton Place; Milton Street; Mitchell Street; Mount Street; Myrtle Terrace.



If you're able to why not get involved in local initiatives like the Great Big School Clean or support community waste reduction efforts.

Blessed are the litter-pickers, the composters, those who buy eco-friendly cleaning products, those who recycle.



Somebody sat in Minnie Hyssop's pew

Next week

SUNDAY 22ND NOVEMBER
CHRIST THE KING

FIRST READING
EZEKIEL 34.11-16,20-24
PSALM
PSALM 95.1-7
SECOND READING
EPHESIANS 1.15-23
GOSPEL
MATTHEW 25.31-46

SERVERS
PETER HENRY
ANTHEA GEE
FIRST READING
SARAH TOWLER
PSALM
REBECCA LUMB
SECOND READING
PETER HENRY
INTERCESSIONS
ALYSSA CALLIGHAN
SIDES PERSON
JANET TURNER & JANE MUNDY

DIARY

Monday
10.30am Morning Prayer
Tuesday
10.00am Coffee Morning
11.30am Mid week Communion
8pm Compline
Wednesday
6pm Cub Scouts in church
Thursday
11.00am Mothers Union
5.30pm Bible Study
6.30pm BCP Evening prayer
Friday
Saturday
10:00am Coffee Morning
Sunday
10.30am Holy Communion



A Service of Light and Hope

Grief has no timetable, and the love we hold for those we have lost never fades.
Join us for our Service of Light and Hope, a gentle and reflective occasion offering comfort, peace and an opportunity to remember loved ones.
Whether your loss was recent or many years ago, this service is for you. Through prayer, quiet reflection and remembrance, we will come together to give thanks for those we miss and find hope in the midst of sadness.
Everyone is welcome. You are not alone in your journey of remembrance.

Mothers' Union – Everyone Welcome!

Join us this Thursday at 11am in church, when Alison Shedden will be giving an interesting talk about John Crossley and the history of Crossley's Carpets. This is an open invitation to everyone, not just Mothers' Union members. Come along and discover more about our local heritage!

Christmas decorations

After the service on Sunday 22nd November, we'll be decorating the church and setting up for the Christmas Fair. Any help, even just decorating the Christmas trees, would be greatly appreciated!
The more hands, the lighter the work!

Please save your jar lids

For our November Messy Church we will be making 'Rockin Snowmen'. We are looking for any jam jar, coffee etc. lids. Thank you.

Could You Help Shape the Future of Our School?

Would you like to make a real difference in the lives of local children? Christ Church Primary School is looking for a new Foundation Governor to join its governing board.
This rewarding role offers the chance to support the school's future, uphold its Christian values and help ensure the best possible education for every pupil.
Interested in finding out more? Speak to one of our existing Governors: Rebecca, Revd Tommy, Sarah, David Gill, David Callighan or Anthea, who will be happy to explain the role and how to apply.

Come and Sing Carols with Us!

Join us and Christians Together at Tesco, Sowerby Bridge, on Saturday 19th December, 11am–12 noon, for some festive carol singing and the sharing of knitted angels with shoppers. Can you spare an hour, or even just part of it? We'd love your help with singing or handing out angels!

Can You Help Make Our Christingles?

We're looking for volunteers to help prepare the Christingles on Saturday 19th December, during the afternoon or early evening, with Tesco Carol sining in the morning. If you can spare some time, please let Anthea know when you're available. Any help would be greatly appreciated! Thank you, Anthea

Kitchen Food Waste

We now have a food waste caddy in the kitchen. Please use this for all food waste rather than putting it in the general bin. Thank you!

Thrive with Roots
everyday faith in every generation
15-21 November 2026

Ready to receive

Judges 4:1-7

God's people are crying out for help. Deborah, a prophetess and judge of Israel, is sitting under a palm tree when she delivers a message from God. God gives the Israelites clear direction for how they should act against their oppressors and how God will assist them.

Read this week's passage:



Research

Find out about some important or notable leaders and how they have used listening to help them lead well.

LISTEN

Listen to 'Your word, O Lord', Chris Pearse. Which of the verses stands out most to you? What would it mean to have God's word within us?

CRAFT

Make a palm tree by using a tube, e.g. from kitchen roll, and painting it brown. Then cut some leaves from green paper or use some spare green fabric, card or other material. Place it somewhere in your house where you will see it and use it as a reminder to stop, be still and listen to God during this week.

Living Scripture

'She used to sit under the palm of Deborah between Ramah and Bethel in the hill country of Ephraim; and the Israelites came up to her for judgement.' **Judges 4:5**

The symbol of the palm tree in this passage means peace and victory. These are the two parts to the story; first Deborah sits in stillness and peace ready to receive from God; next she shares the wisdom of God with the Israelites who, by following what she says, receive victory from God.

All of what happens in this passage seems to hang on the fact that Deborah is still, grounded, and planted underneath a palm tree – she knows where she needs to be to receive from God. She is also contrasted with the Israelites. They are changing, journeying and flitting between one another whereas Deborah is still and stable.

Where do we have moments of stillness in our busy days? Does finding a consistent time for stillness, peace and being planted in one place help us to receive from God?

First impressions

- Where do you like to go to spend time in stillness or reflection?
- What 'leadership qualities' does Deborah display?
- Do you find it easy to listen to God?



Pray

Thank you, God, that we have received from you today.
Help us to remember that we will receive from you again tomorrow.
Make us ready to receive from you each day through others, through turning to you in prayer, through what you reveal to us in the world. Amen.



Take TIME

Consider downloading the Taketime app from the Methodist Church, which offers free, Bible-based, non-directive mindfulness meditations to lead into periods of prayer. Available from your app store or www.taketime.org.uk

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Up-to-the-minute jumping-off points for sermons, linking the reading to the latest news and global issues.

Check-in (www.rootsforchurches.com/check-in)
Connecting faith with everyday, real-life issues for young people.


Advent Fair
Saturday
28th November
10.00am – 3.00pm
Christmas stalls • Gifts • Crafts
Seasonal treats • And much more!
Church Café
Hot Food & Refreshments
EVERYONE WELCOME

Find us at
www.christchurchsb.org.uk

Donate To Church

Auto Captions

Join our network
Hebrews Coffee
password: PowerOfPrayer

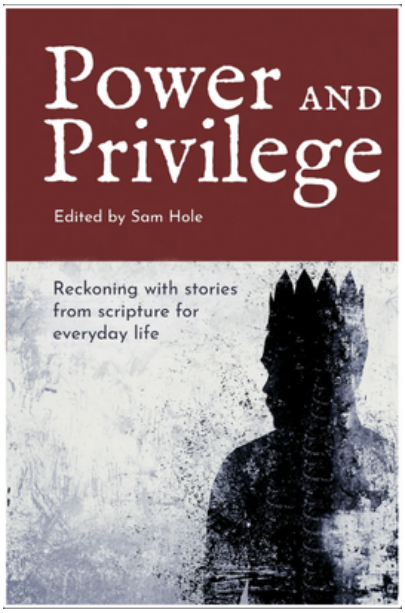
Once connected scan the QR code below

Auto generated captions will appear once the Service starts.

Christ Church
Serving Sowerby Bridge since 1871

Power and Privilege: Reckoning with Stories from Scripture for Everyday Life

By Sam Hole, BRF, £9.99



This collection draws together internationally renowned scholars and practitioners to consider what we can learn from the biblical stories of how individuals handled (and mishandled) the responsibilities of power and privilege.

It aims to help readers and churches both to recognise the power they hold, and to inspire them to consider how they use it well to live wise and faithful lives.

Smile Lines

Died in the services

Little Alex was staring up at the large brass plaque that hung on the side wall of the church. The plaque was covered with names, and they seemed to fascinate the youngster. “All those names,” he said to the vicar. “Who are they?”

“Well, they were people who used to go to this church,” explained the vicar. “This is a memorial to all the young men and women who died in the services.”

Soberly, they stood together, staring at the large plaque. Little Alex’s voice was barely audible when he asked, “Which service, the 9 o’clock, or the 11 o’clock?”

Ordinary people Sharing God’s love in our world.
Growing in faith. Living by prayer. Loving God’s word.
Living Loving Learning.

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